

FALL 2006

The Apache

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



**The Legacy of
Women's Athletics**

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TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



CHANGING LIVES

Calendar of EVENTS

OCTOBER 5-10

Theatre Production

"Dearly Beloved"

Jean Browne Theatre - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday matinee - 2 p.m.

OCTOBER 12

Jazz Concert

Wise Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 23-28

Homecoming Week

See back cover for list of events

NOVEMBER 7

Fall Choral

Small Ensemble Concert

Wise Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 9

Wind Ensemble Concert

Wise Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 17 and 18

Pops Concert

Wise Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 21

Percussion Concert

Wise Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 4

Theatre Production

"A Name for a Ghost to Mutter"

Jean Browne Theatre - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday matinee - 2 p.m.

DECEMBER 1 - 3

Academy of Dance Production

"The Nutcracker"

Wise Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday matinee - 2 p.m.

DECEMBER 20 - JANUARY 2

Winter Break

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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



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COVER PICTURE:

Clockwise, from left: Keshia Warren, Lewisville; Maggie Palmer, Brock; Nyeshia Aldridge, Pittsburg; and Rachel Anders, Lindale.

CORRECTION:

In our Spring 2006 issue, we mistakenly gave credit to the wrong writer for a wonderful story about the success of our tennis program. The article should have included a byline for Shelly Roark.

Dear Readers:

Tyler Junior College celebrates its 80th anniversary this year with a continued commitment to provide students with a quality education while offering a vibrant student life and opportunities to serve and improve the communities of East Texas.

We hope you will join in the celebration of the College's heritage and success. If you are not able to join us on campus for a play, sporting event or alumni gathering, please know your interest in TJC is no less important to us. We certainly hope you enjoy reading this issue of *The Apache* and thus exploring the people and activities that make the College special.

In this issue, we provide readers an interesting profile of the College's history of ladies' athletics; a look at long-time theatre instructor and department chair Dr. David Crawford and his success as a nationally acclaimed playwright; and learn how giving back can be one of the best exercises for students aspiring to be tomorrow's leaders.

As always, we welcome your comments, suggestions and story ideas, so that we may better help you connect with alumni, family and friends of Tyler Junior College.

— The Editors

What Made Us Great Keeps Us Challenged

By Dr. William R. Crowe



By the time this issue of The Apache reaches you, our college will have begun its 80th academic year.

As we plan the rest of our 80th anniversary school year, I can't help but marvel at how fortunate we are that Tyler Junior College continues to thrive as it meets the educational needs of one of the greatest regions of the world's greatest nation.

I believe our success today is possible because of the leadership and passion our founding administrators and teachers brought to TJC from day one.

At our alumni events, and when I talk with faculty, I continue to hear stories about the great leaders of the 1930s, '40s, '50s, '60s and '70s. There are many names I hear over and over, and I know these were dedicated people who set the bar high and laid the challenge at our feet to keep it there.

I hope in the coming years, our busy generation of current students will have similar fond memories of their learning experiences at TJC.

These students are developing their expectations and perceptions of the world and of those who have influenced them – just as students of previous generations did. I'm confident they'll look back on the significant role our college played in their success, and that they'll share those experiences with the *next* president, at alumni gatherings of the future.

Although I hesitate to make a list of the individuals whose names are so firmly connected to our college's heritage, I know our alumni, faculty and retirees will be quick to point out additional TJC greats. They'll provide their recollections for me so that in the Spring 2007 issue of this magazine, I can correct any oversight on my part.

So let me suggest that this is not a list, exactly, but the *beginning* of a list of the many people whose lives have shaped the personality of Tyler Junior College.

Dr. Harry Jenkins

It would be hard to make even a preliminary list of TJC greats without including the name of Dr. Harry Jenkins, a man of vision, high expectation and genuine love for the college and its purpose.

Dr. Jenkins brought solid leadership during a time of national challenge and TJC transition. He stood firm in his beliefs and his commitment to fulfilling the expectations of our community. I think his conviction to academic excellence gently frightened his faculty, but also calmly inspired them to great heights.

He had the fortune to be at the helm when this institution was undergoing great change, and at the same time, facing difficult decisions about inclusiveness and student rights. He suggested before our nation's courts did that the right to higher education extends to all, and he stood firm on a dress and appearance policy that our nation's courts reversed.

He was a giant at 5 foot 6, and his footprints remain today in everything we do to achieve Promise Number One: A Quality Education.

Floyd Wagstaff

We have featured the former students and successes of legendary coach, teacher and athletic director Floyd Wagstaff many times in this magazine.

To his athletes and many other students who were not athletes, Wag was a mentor, a teacher, a role model, and a father.

To me, he was a window to the generations of TJC before my arrival here. But, he was also a stern and steady source of good advice for a young president.

How great his contributions were. And,



Dr. Harry Jenkins

how remarkable it is that they have continued to resonate for generations since his students' last days at TJC.

Coach Wag loved winning, but more than that he loved to watch winners being created. He laid the foundation for many important realizations of the students he touched; that is why he is so fondly recalled by all who knew him.

There haven't been many Floyd Wagstaffs in this world, but the institutions to which their loyalty was tied continue to benefit.

Wag brought more than championships to TJC—he created champions.

Dr. Edward Potter

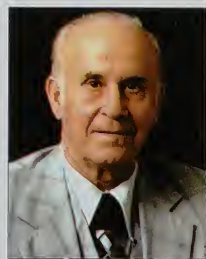
Dr. Ed Potter was like many others of his generation at TJC: he lived and breathed Tyler Junior College. He was known as an educator, administrator, and later, as a trustee who always had a pleasant attitude and something nice to say. But, perhaps more importantly, he excelled by providing an outpouring of concern for every TJC student. And, with his influence as dean and vice president, he often went an extra mile to make certain a student remained in college, or simply came here at all.

He arranged "support services" for his students even before we had an office so named. Among his many great contributions are the relationships he established with Narith and Nirund Jivasantikarn of Thailand. These students found TJC by Peace Corps referral; they came here knowing almost no English. Dr. Potter made certain tutors and special resources were in place to bring success to their academic endeavors. These men went on to complete advanced degrees in the U.S., and then became college presidents in their native land. Quite an accomplishment.

(continued on Page 24)



Dr. Ed Potter



Floyd Wagstaff

ON Campus

ESCAMILLA NAMED FIRST-EVER PROVOST

Dr. Mark Escamilla, formerly executive vice president of Morton College in Cicero, Illinois, has been named provost of Tyler Junior College.

Escamilla is a native of Corpus Christi. As provost, Escamilla will serve as the chief academic officer, responsible to the president for all operations related to curriculum, instructional programs, educational policy, academic planning, and academic resources.

The provost is responsible for ensuring the continued accreditation of the College's programs and serves a primary role in the accreditation relationship with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and other accrediting agencies.



Dr. Mark Escamilla

The position was approved by the Board of Trustees in August 2004 as part of an administrative restructure to add executive-level support to the president and improve communication processes, accountability and efficiency.

"Mark Escamilla has a proven track record of service as an effective and efficient administrator at the community college level," said Dr. Crowe. "He brings a passion for student success and the kinds of tools we need to direct the many instructional programs of Tyler Junior College."

Escamilla served as vice president of administration and student services at Morton College prior to being named executive vice president. From 2001-2004 he directed the district office of enrollment

services at Tarrant County College, May Owen Center in Fort Worth. Other higher education experience includes positions as assistant dean of students and assistant to the dean of students at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

He has taught at Tarrant County College as an adjunct instructor and lectured at The University of Texas at Austin. He holds a Ph.D. in educational administration from the College of Education, Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin and an M.S. in counseling and a B.S. in criminal justice, both from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Escamilla is married to Jodi, and they have a two-year-old son named Benjamin.

As TJC's first-ever Provost, Escamilla will serve as chief academic officer.

"The underpinnings of my educational philosophy have served me well as an academic leader, as well as a member of the communities in which I have lived," he said. "As a leader of academic affairs, I expect that my many experiences from current and past positions will benefit the college's many stakeholders."

"I have thrived as an administrator in large urban non-residential environments, as well as a small rural residential institution. ... It is my sincere intention to share the fruits that have come from my diverse experiences, and also continue to learn from the great traditions of the TJC community."

ANDREWS NAMED DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING

TJC graduate Joan Andrews has returned to her alma mater to be the new director of annual giving.

"I truly feel that I owe my past successes and future prospects to the educational foundation and opportunities that I received at TJC," Andrews said.

Joan graduated from TJC and the University of Mississippi with an emphasis in theatre arts and forensics (speech and debate). Although she won a national speaking championship during her time at TJC, she said the real prize was meeting her husband Mitch on TJC's freshman orientation day.



Joan Andrews

For the next 13 years, Joan worked in Atlanta, Georgia, for the Alliance Theatre Company, a \$10 million regional theatre that is part of the Woodruff Arts Center.

"I owe my successes to the opportunities I received at TJC."

In 2002, the Andrews family moved to Tyler, and Joan was hired by United Way of Tyler/Smith County as campaign director.

She enjoyed working for four years at an organization that helps so many people in our area with dire needs.

She is a member of Leadership Tyler's Class 18, South Tyler Rotary, the Lott Institute's Forensic Advisory Council and Tyler Executive Women's Networking.

MOTHER ESTABLISHES HOLDEN SCHOLARSHIP

Sheri Dunlap of Tyler wants to help other Tyler Junior College students accomplish something her daughter, Megan Holden, will never be able to do: achieve a college education.

Megan Holden attended TJC classes for one day before she was abducted from her off-campus place of employment and murdered in January of 2005.

In her daughter's name, Mrs. Dunlap has donated \$100,000 to TJC, to establish the Megan LeAnn Holden Scholarship Endowment.



Megan Holden

"Megan set many goals for herself," Mrs. Dunlap said, "and she had hoped to become a lawyer and do civil rights work.

"Because her life was cut short and she didn't have a chance to complete her education, this scholarship has been established to enable other students to reach their educational goals.

**\$100,000 donated
to establish
an endowment.**

"It's what Megan would have wanted." Scholarship recipients will be chosen annually from a pool of applicants who show a strong desire to attain a degree in higher education, who can describe in an essay why they are highly motivated to attain a college education, and who demonstrate financial need.

Megan Holden was born September 24, 1985, in Tyler. She grew up in Chandler, where she enjoyed playing softball and basketball. She and her family moved to Henderson when she was 13, and she graduated from Henderson High School.

"Megan was a Christian and extremely family-oriented," Mrs. Dunlap said. "She was a wonderful daughter, sister and aunt. She lived each day as it came and was very comfortable wherever she was, just being herself."

For more information on the Megan LeAnn Holden Scholarship Endowment, contact the Tyler Junior College Foundation at 903-510-2382.

COX, MILLER INDUCTED INTO SPORTS CIRCLE OF HONOR

The College recognized its 10th group of inductees into the TJC Sports Circle of Honor in June, adding Bryan Miller, who played basketball during the 1948-49 national championship season; and Robert Cox, who played tennis, 1974-76, and returned as TJC tennis coach in 1984.

Basketball Coach Floyd Wagstaff recruited Miller to play for the Apaches after he had helped Crozier Tech win the state high school title. Miller brought his winning ways to Tyler, helping guide the Apaches to the national championship the next year. It was TJC's first national title and the first collegiate national championship in basketball for any Texas college.

Following the season, Miller joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served during the Korean War. After his discharge, he returned to TJC and the Apaches, playing on the 1953-54 squad that finished 21-10.

Robert Cox began his collegiate career at TJC in 1974. He earned All-America honors in doubles his sophomore sea-

son, playing for legendary coach Fred Kniffen. Cox was a regular in the singles lineup and partnered with Ray Anders on doubles, reaching the finals of the National Junior College doubles championships in 1976 and earning All-America honors.

Cox transferred to the University of Arkansas after his sophomore season and played for the Razorbacks in 1977 and 1978.



Inductees Robert Cox and Bryan Miller

After earning a business administration degree in the fall of 1978, he spent a year as the head pro at Tyler's Willow Brook Country Club, then left East Texas to travel the ATP tennis circuit, playing in Europe. He earned a No. 6 ranking in 1979 among Texas men and he garnered more than 70 tournament victories.

After his playing days, Cox accepted a teaching position at the Kansas City Country Club in Mission Hills, Kansas. In 1984, he returned to Texas as the head tennis coach at TJC and posted an impressive 108-25 dual match record.

Cox led the Apaches to two NJCAA national championships: a men's team title in 1985 and a women's team title in 1987.

In 1988, Cox left TJC for an opportunity to become coach at the University of Arkansas.

In 18 seasons as the head coach of the Razorbacks, Cox's teams have had 229 victories, eight NCAA Tournament appearances and 11 final top 40 rankings.

GO Apaches

TJC NAMED TOP TEXAS SPORTS COLLEGE

For the second consecutive year, the Tyler Junior College athletic department was named the top junior college family of athletic programs in Texas.

The award recognizes achievements during the 2005-06 school year.

The awards are given by the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) and are sponsored by Pepsi.

The Pepsi NATYCAA Awards are given to recognize overall athletic program excellence by two-year colleges at the national level.

Tyler Junior College finished in a tie for the 18th best program in the country. They were led by 5 sports which finished in the top 11 in the country in their respective NJCAA sport polls: men's and women's tennis; men's and women's golf; and men's soccer.

This is the third year of the Pepsi NATYCAA Awards Program. For 2004-05, the Apache athletic department was ranked as the 14th best in the nation.

Monroe Community College of Rochester, NY won the Scholarship Division and College of DuPage of Glen Ellyn, IL won the Non-Scholarship Division.

FOOTBALL REMAINING SCHEDULE

Oct. 7 3 p.m. vs Kilgore College
Oct. 21 3 p.m. @ Trinity Valley College
Oct. 28 2 p.m. vs Northeastern Okla. A&M
Homecoming

www.apacheathletics.com

MEN'S SOCCER REMAINING SCHEDULE



Oct. 5 7 p.m. @ TBA
Richland Tournament
Oct. 7 7 p.m. @ TBA
Richland Tournament
Oct. 8 11 a.m. @ TBA
Richland Tournament
Oct. 12 7 p.m. vs Young Harris College
Oct. 14 7 p.m. @ Richland College
Oct. 17 7 p.m. vs Lon Morris College
Oct. 29 1 p.m. @ Cedar Valley College

VOLLEYBALL REMAINING SCHEDULE



Oct. 2 6 p.m. @ Blinn College
Oct. 9 7 p.m. vs Panola College
Oct. 12 7 p.m. @ Navarro College
Oct. 16 6 p.m. @ Paris Junior College
Oct. 19 6 p.m. vs Blinn College
Oct. 26 7 p.m. @ Panola College
Oct. 30 7 p.m. vs Navarro College
Nov. 1 6 p.m. @ Seminole State College
Nov. 2 7 p.m. vs Paris Junior College
Nov. 6 3 p.m. @ San Jacinto College - Central
Nov. 8 3 p.m. @ Lee College

MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Oct. 13-14 Dallas Blowout Scrimmage
Nov. 3-4 **TJC Classic, TBA**
Bossier Parish
Southwest Christian
Brookhaven
Nov. 10-11 **TJC Tournament, TBA**
Clarendon
Panola
Ft. Worth All-Stars
Nov. 14 **Northwestern St., JV, TBA**
Nov. 21 San Jacinto College, TBA
Nov. 29 **Trinity Valley CC, 7:30 p.m.**
Dec. 2 **Kilgore College, 7:30 p.m.**
Dec. 6 Paris Junior College, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Oct. 14 **Rose City Scrimmage, TBA**
Oct. 21 Super Scrimmage, TBA
Denton, TX
Nov. 4 Eastern Okla. State, 1:30 p.m.
Nov. 7 **Shorter College, 5:30 p.m.**
Nov. 10 Hill Classic Tournament, TBA
Nov. 11 Hill Classic Tournament, TBA
Nov. 13 **Eastern Okla. State, 5:30 p.m.**
Nov. 16 **Ramada Tyler Classic, TBA**
Nov. 17 **Ramada Tyler Classic, TBA**
Nov. 18 **Ramada Tyler Classic, TBA**
Nov. 21 San Jacinto College, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 24 Collin Classic, 2 p.m.
Nov. 25 Collin Classic, 12 p.m.
Nov. 29 **Trinity Valley CC, 5:30 p.m.**
Dec. 2 **Kilgore College, 5:30 p.m.**
Dec. 6 Paris Junior College, 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 14 Southern University
Shreveport, 5:30 p.m.

**Bold type indicates home game
at Wagstaff Gymnasium**

GO Apaches



Quarterback John Weed leads his Apaches in their season-opening victory against Hutchinson Community College on August 26.

FALL SPORTS OFF TO GOOD START

The College's fall sports got off to hot starts this semester, with the Apache football team winning its first three games before succumbing to a stubborn Cisco defense on September 16.

The Apaches entered the contest in Cisco ranked 4th in the nation.

In fact, all TJC fall sports were ranked in the top 20 in mid-September.

The Apaches are led by sophomore quarterback John Weed of Cypress and sophomore wide receiver Johnny Knox of Houston, who teamed on a number of exciting plays in the first four contests.

Knox was leading the nation's junior colleges in receiving yards and touchdowns with 379 yards and 5 TD's.

Weed was leading the nation in pass completion percentage with 60.92. He'd also thrown for 884 yards and 9 touchdowns and was second in the nation in total offense with 930 yards.

The season's early success included

an opening game rout of Hutchinson Community College of Hutchinson, Kansas, 41-7. It was TJC's first regular-season game against a Kansas league opponent in decades and was part of a weekend of Kansas vs. Texas junior college football.

Texas teams won five and lost two.

SOCCER

The Apaches soccer team was ranked 6th in the nation after the first seven contests, including a 2-0 defeat of rival



The 2006 Apache soccer squad.

San Jacinto, which entered the September 10 contest ranked 5th nationally.

The team lost a match to national soccer power Yavapai College on September 2 before winning three in a row.

A disappointing overtime tie with Richland College September 16 at home dropped their record to 6-1-1 as conference action began to heat up.

The Apaches are led by sophomore forward Albert Escovar of Orlando, FL, who was among the nation's top scorers with 7 goals, and freshman goalkeeper David Cristofoli of Johannesburg, South Africa.

VOLLEYBALL

The Apache Ladies volleyball team was ranked 19th in the nation and had a mark of 11-6 after defeating North Central College in Gainesville, 24-30, 30-22, 30-26, 30-26, on September 14.

Head Coach Dana Hatch planned a more difficult non-conference schedule this year to prepare her team to battle for a national tournament bid. The Apache Ladies were 25-22 overall last year.

Hatch has two assistant coaches: former TJC volleyball standout Jessica Layne and intern Matt Phelps, who played club volleyball at Texas A&M and also helped out with the A&M women's team.

Layne works with the outside hitters, Phelps instructs the right-side hitters, while Hatch coaches the middles and setters.

The coach signed two international players: 5-10 outside hitter Emmanuella Lastrucci of France and Janine Barmettler of Switzerland.

**For season tickets,
or for more
information on the
TJC Athletics program,
call 903-510-2458.**

From Back Roads to Broadway

By Elise Mullinix



On a long driving trip across the Texas plains, the average driver would probably tune into a country station and zone out as he drove across the flat, arid stretch of nothingness.

Not David Crawford. No, sir.

The longtime chair of Tyler Junior College's theatre department – and a 1971 TJC graduate – wrote a play in his head.

"I was driving across the south plains about nine years ago, on my way to Colorado and listening to Aaron Copland's Third Symphony," he said. "Hearing that music and seeing all that sky and farmland, with an occasional little puff of trees in the distance, got me to thinking."

What started it all was that occasional puff of trees, which was usually in close proximity to an old farmhouse.

"There was one instance where I saw the trees, then the farmhouse, then a farmer standing nearby," he said. "I started wondering about the farmer: 'What is his life like? Does he have a wife? What does he grow here?'" Then it turned into a story about a young farmer and his wife."

And with that came "Barren Fields", the first act of what eventually became Crawford's high plains Texas trilogy, "Harvest".

Writing "Barren Fields" was a virtual whirlwind, he said.

"It came so quickly," he said. "I had it totally written in three days. It was almost like my fingers on the keyboard were trying to keep up with my thoughts."

Crawford conjured up the story of a cotton farmer and his wife, Rick and Toni Childress.

Rick, 25, loves the land, even when the merciless rains drown his cotton crop and he has to start all over the next season.

Toni doesn't love the land so much as she loves Rick; and living on a farm was never what she had in mind.

When Crawford set the scene for the play, he purposely omitted the time period. "The thing is, these stories can take



Lana and Rick Higginbotham portray Aggy and farmer Rick in *Squaring for a Jean Browne Theatre* audience in 2004.

place in any time," he said. "They could be set 50 years ago, or they could happen today."

After his friends read "Barren Fields", he said, "They hassled me into continuing the story."

So he followed up his first act with "Squaring", set 20 years after "Barren

"I started wondering about the farmer: 'What is his life like? Does he have a wife? What does he grow here?'"

Fields"; then "End of the Row", set 20 years after that.

"So, it spans about 60 years of Rick's life in three, 40-minute increments," Crawford said.

Since it's essentially three separate stories, he said they could be performed as individual pieces or as a whole, three-act play.

Last October, the Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York chose the entire work

as part of its 2005 series of off-Broadway readings.

"That was a very nice thing to happen," Crawford said. "The opportunity for the reading was born out of my participation in an EST Summer Writer's Workshop in Lexington, N.Y."

"I was working on the trilogy there with members of their board, actors and other writers, especially with Arthur Giron, a New York playwright who took a liking to my work."

Giron recommended Crawford to EST's Octoberfest board, who selected the "Harvest" trilogy to be performed at their month-long festival in New York City.

Key players in the second act, "Squaring", were stage and screen actors Donna Bullock, a 1976 TJC graduate, and her husband, Sherman Howard, who last year relocated from Los Angeles to the New York area.

The Alchemy Theatre Company in New York City has also chosen "Harvest" as an off-Broadway production in October 2007.

It will also be the final production of the upcoming Theatre TJC season which will celebrate the college's 80th anniversary by featuring only works written by TJC alumni.

Theatre TJC's 2006-07 season includes:

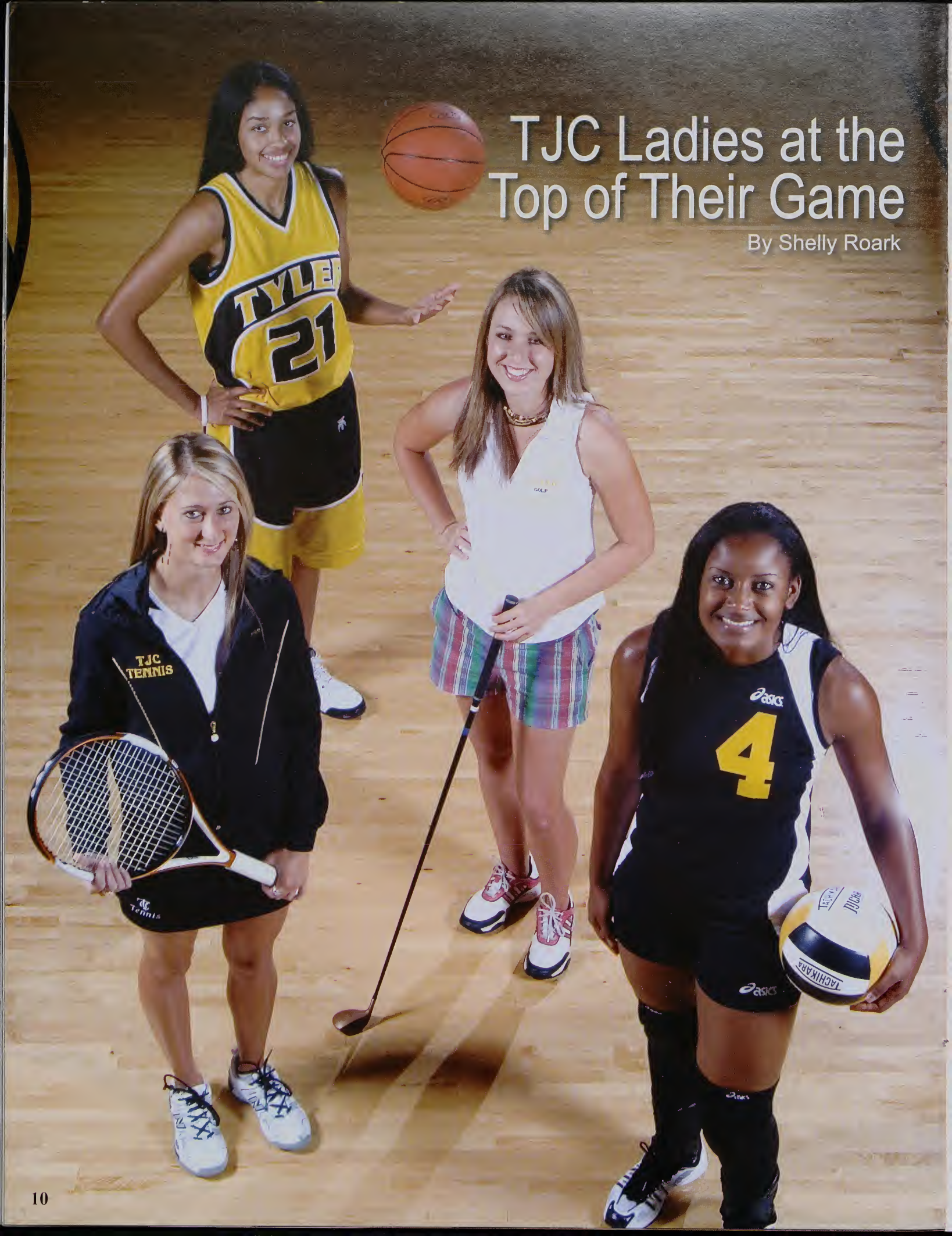
- "Dearly Beloved" by Nick Wilkinson '73, October 5-10
- "A Name for a Ghost to Mutter" by Cyndi Williams '78, November 29-December 4
- "Harvest" by Crawford, April 25-30

"It promises to be a very exciting season, with the works by TJC grads, plus our annual spring musical will be Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast,'" he said.

Crawford reminds that this is also the 80th year of the theatre department's student organization, Las Mascaras.

Translated as "The Maskers", Las Mascaras is TJC's oldest continuous group. Las Mas, as it is commonly known, was

(continued on Page 22)

A group of four female athletes posing on a light-colored wooden floor. In the top left, a basketball player in a yellow jersey with 'TYLER 21' on it. In the bottom left, a tennis player in a black jacket with 'TJC TENNIS' and holding a tennis racket. In the center, a golfer in a white sleeveless top and plaid shorts holding a golf club. In the bottom right, a volleyball player in a black jersey with the number '4' and 'asics' logo, holding a volleyball. A basketball is suspended in the air near the top center.

TJC Ladies at the Top of Their Game

By Shelly Roark

Thirty years ago a special group of students stepped onto the court and changed the history of sports at Tyler Junior College — they were the very first Apache Ladies basketball team.

Although ladies had played tennis at TJC, it was the 1976 Apache Ladies basketball team that was the first all-female squad.

“This girls’ basketball team was the first,” said Coach Herb Richardson who recruited that first team and coached women’s basketball for nine years at TJC. “They were a great group. These kids really set a good example for others coming in.”

That first women’s basketball team in 1976 launched a legacy of women’s sports at Tyler Junior College — one that has nurtured four successful women’s athletic programs, earning 14 different NJCAA Women’s National Championship Titles.

“I can’t imagine our program or any program without women’s athletics,” said Dr. Tim Drain, TJC athletic director. “Our strong women’s athletic groups have certainly enhanced our athletic program as a whole. I am very proud of the success of our sports. Year in and year out women’s basketball, volleyball, tennis and golf are some of the top programs in the nation.”

The Apache Ladies basketball program broke important ground in its role as the first all-woman team.

STARTING FROM SCRATCH

“I had been an assistant to Coach Wag (legendary TJC basketball coach Floyd Wagstaff) and was a counselor when they wanted to hire a girls’ basketball coach to start the program,” Richardson said. “I told Coach Wag that was the job I wanted and Dr. (Harry E.) Jenkins (TJC president at the time) said I could have it. So I left the counseling office and started recruiting that day.”

Richardson said he began with six full scholarships and six partial scholarships as



Post Keisha Warren looks to avoid a defender in a game last season at Wagstaff Gym.

bargaining tools for that first year. He went after high school seniors who were part of winning teams throughout Texas and soon had recruited his team of 12.

“I told them we were starting a girls’ basketball program, wanted to have a real good one, and I felt like they would be an asset to the program,” Richardson said. “We were going to play a good schedule. And I figured we’d win. I thought I could take anybody and beat anybody else!”

And win they did. The team had a winning record of 24-6 against teams from Henderson County Junior College (now Trinity Valley Community College), Paris, San Jacinto, and Panola. They also won against four-year universities such as Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston State, East Texas Baptist and others.

Richardson attributes the team’s success to their extreme desire to win. “They were a bunch that I called the ‘nubbins.’ They weren’t too big (5’5”, 5’7”, 5’8” ... the tallest player was 5’11”), but they were all off of winning teams. It made a whole lot of difference. They knew how to win and they didn’t like to get beat.”

According to the players, Richardson himself played a big role in their determination to win. “Coach Richardson really took care of us,” said Jo Nell (Henslee) Williamson. “He cared about us on and off the floor. We knew that and that’s why

we played so hard. He loved us no matter if we won or lost ... he just wanted the best for us.”

Williamson said the team called her “peanut” because she was the smallest player at 5’2”. “We weren’t very big. None of us were very tall,” she said. “But we had big hearts and played our best.

“Coach Richardson really had to teach us how to play because the

style of playing was new for all of us. We were used to playing three-on-three at the half-court line. He taught us how to play defense and the full-court game itself,” she said.

“I can’t imagine our program or any program without women’s athletics.”

There were other obstacles to overcome for the first Apache Ladies. The girls did not have their own dressing room (they dressed in the dorms) and they had to share practice space with the men’s team. But the hardest change to deal with for many of the girls had nothing to do with the game — it was homesickness.

Richardson said, “I had to go up to the dorm many times where some were packing their stuff and trying to go home because they were homesick. I got to know their mothers real well. I always told them that my wife would be their mother away from home. She worked with us, and we had them out to the house every once in a while. Most of them will tell you I’m their second dad.”

(continued on next page)

Bobbie (Bruton) McAdoo, one of the first Apache Ladies, said she was lonely when she first arrived at TJC, but cried her hardest when it was time to leave. "It was just like a family. Coach Richardson and Coach Wag took us in like we were their kids. After two years when it was time to leave, we cried and cried and asked, 'Why can't you be a four-year college?'" McAdoo said. "We were a close-knit family. We ran around together, and we played well as a team."

The family ties didn't loosen when the 1976 team graduated. McAdoo said, "I went to the University of Houston from Tyler and things didn't work out. I got so upset that I came back. Coach Richardson and Coach Wag took me in for about a week and found me a college to go to (Sam Houston State University). They would just help you in any way. I stayed in touch."

After graduating from college, McAdoo coached girls' high school basketball for



The Apache Ladies celebrate their national title in 2000.

17 years. "I quit coaching so I could enjoy watching my son play sports, but I still teach Texas history." She lives in Luella, Texas.

"Those were the most fun years of my life," said McAdoo.

After TJC, Williamson went on to play for Baylor University in Waco. She married a basketball coach and taught girls' basketball herself for nine years. She lives

in Van Alstyne, Texas, and enjoys watching her son and daughter play basketball.

Richardson said several of the players from 1976 and after went on to coach. "I still hear from a bunch of them. They'll call to ask advice about types of defense and offense strategies to use against teams. It really was a family. We looked after them pretty good."

The first Apache Ladies set a high standard for women's athletics at TJC, a challenge that has been met time and time again.

Since the early years of Richardson, the TJC Apache Ladies have grown even more successful — winning a Women's Division I Basketball national championship in 2000 and nurturing more coaches and quality players.

Jana (Crosby) Russell took to the court

BASKETBALL REUNION

Members of the 1976 Apache Ladies basketball team are invited to join Tyler Junior College coaches and staff for a special reunion event December 2.

"We are so pleased to welcome these ground-breaking ladies home," said Alumni Director Betty Briggs. "This event will be a celebration of the 30-year legacy they created for women's athletics here at TJC."

The reunion, suggested by Coach Herb Richardson, will include a fish fry at the Richardsons' home on Lake Palestine at noon that day and a walking tour of the campus at 4 p.m.

Guests are invited to a reception at 4:30 p.m., in Coach Wag's Office, and to watch the Apache Ladies take on the



Members of the 1976 Apache Ladies basketball team are Vicki Barrett, Sandy Self, Sherri Cathey, Loretta Jackson, Hazel Gibson, Bobbie Burton, Kathleen Moore, Sheree Christian, Evelyn Jo Troell, Cynthia Overstreet, Susan Doebbler, Jenny Rackly, Paula Shaw, Cindy Weaver and Jo Nell Henslee.

Kilgore College Lady Rangers at 5:30 p.m.

Members of the team will be introduced at half-time of the game.

For more information, call Betty Briggs at 903.510.2371 or bbrri@tjc.edu.

as an Apache Lady from 1986 to 1988.

The team captain set numerous Southwest Conference records and was named to the 1988 All-Region XIV and All-Texas Eastern Conference teams. "I love Tyler. I was excited to play in the Texas Eastern Conference. The level of play in the TEC was so tough (and still is) that I knew playing each week would give me an opportunity to play at the next level. TJC had and continues to have a certain measure of class that is unmatched by other schools. I am proud to have been an Apache Lady."

Russell went on to play as a Lady Cougar at the University of Houston and became a successful basketball head coach at several high schools. She was named District 16-4A Coach of the Year in 1995. In 2005, she was inducted into the TJC Sports Circle of Honor. "Playing at TJC made me a better player," Russell said. "Tyler Junior College is a special place, and I had a great experience there."

The women's tennis program began alongside the men's in the 1970s. For

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PROMISE

1

A quality education.

Students who transfer to complete a bachelor's degree after two years at TJC regularly receive better grades and complete their degrees faster than students who began their studies at a four-year institution.

What's more, our core curriculum is guaranteed to transfer to state-assisted institutions in Texas.



TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



www.tjc.edu

CHANGING LIVES

FOR MURPHY FAMILY, LOVE IS THE PERFECT SCORE

JoAnn Medlock Murphy learned to love tennis at Tyler Junior College in the 1950s. She was one of the early community players who took advantage of excellent coaching and training available at the College. TJC coaching legend Floyd Wagstaff encouraged JoAnn to play with the best, and she took his words to heart. Tennis was one of her life-long passions. After she passed away on March 13, 2005, her family agreed that the best way to memorialize JoAnn was to honor what she loved; the result is an \$800,000 gift to establish the JoAnn Medlock Murphy Tennis Center at TJC.

"She had an unreserved amount of love for people and saw the good in everybody."

"JoAnn always wanted to give something to TJC," said her husband, Jimmy Murphy. "Every time something came up, she wanted to give. She was like that—she'd give away everything she had to help someone else."

Tyler Junior College is a keystone in the life of the Murphy family. Jimmy remembers passing the College (then just a few buildings) when doing his paper route as a youngster. Later, JoAnn would walk down the street to TJC from her home to watch him practice football with her brother, Duane. When she graduated from Tyler High School in 1954, JoAnn married Jimmy. Foregoing her own education, she worked to put him through both TJC and Stephen F. Austin State University, but the connection doesn't stop there.

"TJC is an extension of our family," Jimmy said. "Two of my younger brothers attended TJC, as well as our three children and some of our grandchildren. It holds a special part in our lives. We think a lot of the administration and the school."

Though Jimmy's career in financial services took them to Houston for several years, they returned to the area in 1972 to build a ranch and a home that are second to none. The J5 (named for all the Murphys—Jimmy, JoAnn, Jana, Joni and John) became the hub of JoAnn's life and an extension of her heart. Friends and family dropped by all the time for a bit of her homespun wisdom and a hearty meal, enjoy a good laugh and come away feeling better just for being around JoAnn.

"She had an unreserved amount of love for people and saw the good in everybody," Jimmy said. "She loved people unequivocally, and they knew it."

AN UNENDING PASSION

JoAnn continued her tennis despite the demands of running a ranch, raising children and volunteering. Once her children were in school, she pursued it more seriously—this time under renowned TJC tennis coach Fred Kniffen. She had a natural talent for the game and even had a tennis court built at the ranch. The family could have decided to put their legacy gift toward creating an independent tennis facility, but it was never a consideration.

"This is a real need that TJC has had for a long time," Jimmy explained. "Tennis is something people overlook [when it comes to college sports]. People often give to help sports with a high level of visibility,

like football or basketball or baseball. JoAnn would be the one that wanted to help those with the least."

Though he loves to talk about his mother, there is some unease when John Murphy speaks of the attention surrounding the magnificent gift that will help bring TJC's tennis center to life.

"My mother was the type of person who would think this article was too much," he said. "She was a behind-the-scenes person, a simple person. But she could walk into a room and people were just drawn to her. It happened at TJC functions and other places. It was part of her personality.

Education was very important to her. She didn't have the benefit of education herself but insisted on it for us."

In many ways, the new

JoAnn Medlock Murphy Tennis Center will continue the role JoAnn herself created. It will draw tennis players from all over Texas, indeed, all over the country, to come and learn and grow as students and players.

Were she still alive, she'd want to hug each one who arrived, cheer them on from the stands and pat them on the back after every outstanding serve or backhand. Because of the gift by her family in her name, she'll be able to do all those things and more.

Tyler Junior College students have made a name for themselves on the national stage through Apache Tennis and the outstanding coaches who have helped them to victory. The tennis



Foundation NEWS



A summer rain shower couldn't dampen the excitement of Jimmy Murphy, Joni Murphy Black, Jana Murphy Wright, and John Murphy at the tennis center groundbreaking.

program has received more national honors than any other sport at TJC for both Apache Men's and Ladies' teams. The Apache Men's tennis team won the national championship three times straight (2002-2004) and has won ten national championships since 1987. The Apache Ladies' tennis team has won nine national championships since 1987, including five consecutive championships (1998-2002.)

JoAnn's involvement in tennis at TJC came through the continuing education program that still benefits community residents today. Along with the Murphy Center, the entire TJC tennis complex will give even more local and area tennis players the opportunity to improve their game. It will be a state-of-the-art facility which will include eight new courts, covered grandstands, a concession patio plus the Murphy Center.

The new complex will bring attention to TJC in new ways through hosting tournaments and other events. The College will ask the Tyler Convention and Visitors Bureau to seek an agreement

with the National Junior College Athletic Association to host the men's or ladies' national championships. TJC last hosted a



The JoAnn Medlock Murphy Tennis Center is expected to open in the Spring of 2007.

national tennis tournament in 2001.

Located between East Devine and East Lake Streets on the main campus, the JoAnn Medlock Murphy Tennis Center will provide much-needed facilities that will raise the level of tennis play at Tyler Junior College.

- Locker rooms for both men's and ladies' tennis teams.

- Faculty offices, a work room and a classroom for the nationally-acclaimed Tennis Tech program, which trains tennis professionals and has welcomed students from 50 states and 20 countries.

- Trophy and function room with a balcony overlooking new tiered courts.

JoAnn passed on her love of tennis to anyone she could. Daughter Joni played at Gladewater in high school and now is a teacher and tennis instructor there. Her daughter, JoAnn's granddaughter, plays competitively on the Gladewater team. By anyone's standards, this could be considered a success.

However, JoAnn Murphy was never one to settle for "anyone's standards". She lived life large, with her arms wide open

to embrace everyone in reach.

The Tennis Center that will bear her name will extend that reach many times over. In JoAnn's book, "Love" was the highest score possible.

— By Becca Anderson

TJC Students Make A Wish Come True

By Shelly Roark



Life's most important lessons don't always come from a textbook.

Students in Don Blaine's leadership class learned that first-hand when they took on the responsibility of fulfilling the wish of an ill child last spring.

The group raised the funds to send 13-year-old leukemia patient Becky Hoffman and her family to the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn.

"It made me feel better as a person to take time out of my life to help another family," said TJC student Becky McClendon.

As part of the curriculum each semester, business management instructor Blaine assigns students the task of finding and

"I want the students to have hands-on experience of what taking a leadership role really means, what it really feels like."

completing a community service project. The goal is to bring students and faculty together to work as a group for a worthy cause.

"The class focuses on preparing students for leadership roles once they graduate," Blaine said. "Rather than teach a theory-based class, I want the students to have hands-on experience of what taking a leadership role really means, what it really feels like. Vision, passion, commitment, and servant-hood are some of the qualities the students experience during the project.

"The students pick their own project during the beginning of the semester and all I ask is that their project meet the definition of what leadership is really all about – making a positive impact on someone else's life."

Last spring's class chose to support the



Becky is carefree in a sea of shopping and fun.

Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Northeast Texas Regional Office of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, based in Tyler, grants wishes to children in 30 counties.

"This is the first time college students have ever gotten involved (as a group)," said Wendy Frizzell, regional development director for Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"They paid for the whole wish, and I'm so proud of them. The class was really hands-on and got excited about the wish.

"The Make-A-Wish kids are ages 2-1/2 to 18 and must be diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition, not necessarily terminal. Many people are surprised to find out that about 80 percent of our kids survive," Frizzell said.

Becky has survived two battles with leukemia in her short life. Her mother, Kathy Hoffman, said Becky was diagnosed with the disease, a life-threatening cancer of the blood or bone marrow, when she was 2 years old.

"It went into remission, but when she was 12 years old, it came back," Hoffman said. "She missed her entire seventh-grade year at school because she was home-bound. And she had chemo all last summer. Every three weeks, she stayed in the hospital for five days for the treatment."

The good news is that Becky received a bone marrow transplant last fall. The surgery was successful and her leukemia is in remission, Hoffman said.

And thanks to the efforts of some TJC students, Becky began making up for lost time this summer.

"We really wanted this summer to be a fun one," Hoffman said. "I'm just so grateful for what (the students) did. They reached out to help a 13-year-old girl and that is so sweet to us. We are just amazed."

The trip to the Mall of America satisfied Becky's passion for shopping and her desire to visit a major amusement park. The

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Every shopper's dream is a mall the size of Texas.

LADIES' TENNIS

many years, TJC has offered not only competitive teams, but also associate's degrees and a one-year certificate program in business and recreation leadership for tennis players. More than 90% of TJC's Tennis Tech graduates find full-time tennis employment.

Through the years, women's tennis has garnered 13 championships.

Coach John Peterson said, "Fred Kniffen, who was the first coach, and Robert Cox won national championships with their women's teams. We have sent many players on to distinguished Division I programs from TJC and the program is one of the most respected two-year programs in the United States."

In the early years, Kniffen said there was one team which included men and women. "When I came to TJC in 1974 there was one team, men and women, and they had never excelled at the sport. It was probably 1975 that we first competed at the national tournament and finished third."

As the years passed, the women's team took a more independent role with an increasing number of quality players. Today, women's tennis is considered its own sport. "Men's and women's tennis are two separate sports," Kniffen said. "It's just that they have always had the same coach and practiced at the same time. Women's tennis was probably the biggest sport for women back before Title Nine (an education law passed by Congress in 1972 that afforded men and women equal opportunity in a school's athletic program). Women's professional tennis today is still the most successful and profitable avenue for female athletes."

Since Peterson began his tenure in 1987, TJC women's tennis has earned nine national championships.

Drain said, "(Peterson) has done an

unbelievable job. Tennis is what TJC has been known for and that is because of the success of men's and women's tennis."



Ladies' volleyball is entering its second decade at TJC.

LADIES' VOLLEYBALL

Coach Dana Hatch was hired in July of 1996 to launch the TJC Apache Ladies volleyball team. "By the time I was hired, the initial recruiting was scarce. There were no kids left, so I went all over campus and rounded up bodies. That first year was scary, but after that it got really good," Hatch said.

Hatch said after that first year, the Apache Ladies volleyball team qualified for the regional tournament every year. "And every year but the first, we've had a season of 20 wins or more," she said.

In 2002, the team competed in the NJCAA National Volleyball Tournament.

"It's gotten better and better every year," Hatch said. "Now I've got coaches that I have worked with that call me about their players. They've sent me some neat kids."

This year, Hatch said she has two international students joining the team.

"We are starting to branch out a little with the international students. That is pretty important for a junior college. But, I still have a soft spot for my local kids."

LADIES' GOLF

The TJC Women's Golf team was launched in 1999 and has remained an intimate group of golfers. Sandy Terry, men's and women's golf coach since 2001, said, "In the first three years they had women's golf here, they finished third (at the NJCAA Women's Golf National Championship)."

Although the team has never been large, Terry said it has continued to play with quality. The women's team has consistently finished in the top 10 at the National Championship and took second place in 2004.

"When the team first started, the national tournament was really small. Since then, they have really expanded," Terry said.

Terry said he continues to work every year to recruit team members because "there are not many women golfers." But he said more and more women are getting interested in the sport and the current team of eight women includes golfers from Scotland, from France and from all over Texas.

NEW SPORTS ON HORIZON?

Drain said that as TJC continues to grow, so should the athletic opportunities for women. He said two sports that have great possibility for TJC's women's athletics are women's soccer and softball.

"These are two sports that I would love to see TJC offer in the future," Drain said.

He said each has unique startup opportunities and obstacles.

Drain said a lot of other schools in the Region XIV Athletic Conference play women's softball. "We could easily get a schedule," he said. "The problem is where to play."

He said that locally, youth organizations like the Tyler Fastpitch Association has

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PROMISE

2

A vibrant student life.

TJC offers about 35 student organizations, a 200-member band, two singing groups, a nationally-recognized theatre department, an active student government body, 10 intercollegiate athletic teams with 36 national championships and the world famous Apache Belles.

That's opportunity!



TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



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CHANGING LIVES

Alumni NEWS

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD WINNER

As president and CEO of the Murphy Company, Inc., Jimmy has won virtually every award in the life insurance business for his successful financial and estate planning.

As a student, he was an outstanding athlete at both TJC and SFA. In 1954 he was named co-captain of the Lumberjacks and a member of the All Texas Football Squad. After graduating, the Chicago Cardinals drafted him but an early injury ended his



Jimmy Murphy '54, CLU, ChFC

professional football career. Jimmy then became a coach for Spring Branch ISD.

Jimmy is the founder and co-chairman of the Floyd Wagstaff Scholarship Foundation. He is a proud member of the TJC Sports Circle of Honor. He served as chairman of the SFA Board of Regents and the Jimmy Murphy Wellness Center was named in his honor.

Jimmy married his high school sweetheart, the late JoAnn Medlock Murphy. She passed away last year just two months shy of their 50th wedding anniversary.

In her honor, the family made a generous donation to fund the College's new tennis center and in July the Murphy family broke ground on the JoAnn Medlock Murphy Tennis Center.

BLACK AND GOLD AWARD WINNER



Vernon E. Faulconer

Vernon E. Faulconer is the founder and CEO of Vernon E. Faulconer, Inc., an independent oil and gas company headquartered in Tyler. In 1990, he established the Faulconer Academic Incentive Award for Minority Students at TJC. Since that time, scholarships have been awarded to more than 300 highly motivated African-American and Hispanic-American students. With rare exceptions, Faulconer Scholars are required to attend TJC for their first two years and then may transfer to any accredited Texas college or university.

More recently, the Faulconer Scholarship Program was established and, currently 40 new scholarships are awarded each year to graduating minority seniors in the TJC school districts. Eligible recipients receive up to five years of financial support—as much as \$22,500.

Mr. Faulconer is an active member of the board of Grinnell College, his alma mater, and also serves on the board of trustees for the Dallas Museum of Art. The Faulconers moved to Tyler in 1970 and recently celebrated their 43 wedding anniversary. They have three children and love to travel.

Mr. Faulconer embraces the philosophy of continuing to be engaged in learning.

APACHE SPIRIT AWARD WINNER

As a former TJC theatre student who now heads the department, David has brought a unique perspective to his classroom for the past 30 years. Besides his role as an instructor, director and mentor, he is a published playwright and has won numerous awards for both his roles as a teacher and a writer.

Last year, David's *Harvest: A Texas High-Plains Trilogy*, was read during New York's Ensemble Studio Theatre's annual Octoberfest. The event was hosted by playwright Arthur Giron. The trilogy was read by Broadway professionals, among them TJC alumna Donna Bullock and her husband Sherman Howard. David considers the honor one of the highlights of his career.



Dr. David W. Crawford

Every summer, Dr. Crawford takes his students to New York to experience the Broadway theatre. Besides attending plays, students attend workshops where TJC theatre alums discuss their careers, the importance of a college education and how to survive in the Big Apple.

After graduating from TJC, David received his bachelor's at North Texas State, his master's at SFA and his doctorate at Texas Tech.

11th ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS WILL BE FRIDAY, OCT. 27 AT 6 P.M. IN THE APACHE ROOMS

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD WINNER

An innovative educator, Margaret established the first Learning Resource Center Concept for the Tyler public school system in 1956 at Moore Middle School.

When Tyler's integration plan was established in 1970, she was asked to serve as the librarian at Dogan Junior High.



Margaret Loftis

In 1974, she was placed at Robert E. Lee High School with the challenge of updating and recommending changes to the library so it

could better meet the enlarged enrollment and a diversified curriculum.

In 1976, she completed her 16 years of paid service in education and became a full-time volunteer for her community, church and colleges.

She has served in numerous key volunteer positions over the years including president of Tyler Sister Cities, co-chair of Tyler's National Day of Prayer, and is a current member of the TJC Alumni Board of Directors.

In 2001 she was named "Hero of TISD," and in 2003 the district named the RELHS Career Center in her honor.

She feels blessed to have shared 57 years with a mate of mutual interests who she says talked less but said more—her childhood sweetheart and husband, Judge Harry Loftis, who passed away in 2003. Mr. Loftis served on the TJC Board of Trustees for 30 years.

VALUABLE YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD WINNER

As the most nominated artist at the 37th annual Gospel Music Awards with 10, Chris Tomlin won five 2006 Dove awards including male vocalist, song of the year and artist of the year. His song "How Great Is Our God" won in both the song of the year and worship song categories. His fifth award was for his collaboration on the album "Music Inspired by the Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."



Chris Tomlin '92, Christian Musician

In 2005, he won worship album of the year with *Arriving*. Seven of his songs are in the top 50 songs sung in churches across the U.S., and 18 are in the top 500. Featured on seven Passion Worship Recordings, his newest album, *See the Morning* was released in September.

Growing up in Tyler, Chris learned to play the guitar at age 9 and became part of the Christian music scene at 13.

After graduating from TJC, Tomlin received his bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University.

In 2001 he launched his first solo CD and as his musical passion grew, Tomlin and his band looked for a place to call home. They moved to Austin and in 2002 the Austin Stone Community Church was founded and Chris became pastor.

FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT

Dear Apache Family and Friends,

It is such an honor to be serving as president of the Tyler Junior College Alumni Association during the 80th Anniversary year! In 1926, Tyler Junior College began a tradition of educational excellence that still continues today. For the past 80 years, TJC has been "changing lives", and that is truly something to celebrate!



Each year thousands of students call Tyler Junior College "home" and here are just a few reasons why: a caring faculty and staff, a challenging academic and vocational curriculum, and a campus life that is vibrant and diverse; not to mention state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge technology and a fine arts program that is second to none. Tyler Junior College has a vision for growth and innovation that extends beyond the first 80 years and well into the next generation of learners. As the educational needs of East Texas change – TJC will be there, changing lives.

Having grown up less than a mile from the Tyler Junior College campus, TJC really was like home to me. From my neighborhood I could sometimes hear the music of the Apache Band as they pounded out the familiar sound of the Apache fight song. There was never any doubt in my mind that I would someday be a Tyler Junior College Apache. After all, TJC was home. Even as a child I was captivated the first time I saw the Apache Belles, long skirts flowing in perfect unison as

(continued on next page)

they gracefully marched in the Tyler Rose Festival Parade. At the early age of 3, I got my first pair of Apache Belle boots for Christmas! Fifteen years later, after two long weeks of auditions, I earned my real Apache Belle boots! Performing with the Apache Belles at Super Bowl XII was an experience I will never forget. As ambassadors of the College, the Apache Belles and Band, as well as Harmony and Understanding, have taken the Apache Spirit around the world.

I am also grateful to many outstanding faculty members who put their heart and soul into teaching beyond the classroom. Being a member of Harmony and Understanding under the direction of J.W. Johnson was a life-changing encounter. Mr. Johnson's passion for music, life and Tyler Junior College was contagious! He was, and continues to be, one the most influential people in my life and I will always admire him for bringing out the best in me. I appreciate TJC educators like Dr. Robert Glover, my Civil War history teacher who gave his final exam at a log cabin under candlelight. Because of his

If you know of a prospective student who would enjoy seeing Apache spirit first-hand, contact the TJC Admissions office about Apache Preview Day, October 28th, or go to www.tjc.edu/preview.

Cindy Nick directed award-winning high school drill teams for 18 years in the East Texas area. She is the former owner of Star Dance Productions Dance Studio in Tyler. Cindy received the TJC Most Valuable Young Alumni Award in 1998 and was a TISD Teacher of the Year Finalist in 2000. She has been married to Terry Nick for 25 years. They have two sons, Cameron and Chase, one daughter-in-law, Cassie, and a grandson, Chandler. Cindy is currently the co-director of Women's Ministries at New Life Worship Center Church.



Cindy Nick, Alumni President

creative passion for history, I decided to make it my second major.

As you can see, TJC is much more than a College to me. It is a life experience that will stay with each student for many years to come; it is the Apache Spirit in each one of us.

Joining the Tyler Junior College Alumni Association is a great way to give back to TJC. Membership dues help to establish new scholarships and show current students that TJC is an investment worth making. I hope that you will join us as we celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Tyler Junior College.

Come home to TJC. The drum is still beating . . .

Cindy Nick

Cindy Miller Nick
President, TJC Alumni Association
Class of 1977-79

given its name by then-student Edward Potter, who years later earned his doctorate and became vice president of the college.

There are stipulations to being a member of Las Mascaras, Crawford said.

Students must earn membership points by working on production crews. Upon earning 75 points, and paying lifetime membership dues of \$10, new members are initiated.

Hard work has long been a hallmark of the TJC theatre department.

"Our program is known for turning out not only quality actors, but well-rounded students who are skilled in all aspects of theatre," Crawford said. "When students leave here, they have hands-on experience in performance, design and house management."

For Crawford and his colleagues, the focus is on their students' graduation. Always.

"There is no division between acting and crew work," Crawford said. "You have to be able to do all of it."

That do-it-all philosophy has given the TJC program a reputation for turning out quality students.

Four-year institutions have been known to call up Crawford, seeking students for recruitment.

"It speaks to the fact that our students are able to get so much experience here – experience and attention that they very likely could not get at a higher level – and that they are able to go on and be so successful," he said.

For more information about the Theatre TJC season, go to www.tjc.edu/theatre.

Promise 2: Ladies athletics continued



Kaylee West, a freshman from Lindale, strokes a forehand during practice in mid-September.

seen phenomenal growth in popularity. But the playing space and facilities have not grown.

"There is a lot of competition for places to play," he said. "Our dream scenario would be to build an on-campus facility."

On the other hand, a women's soccer program would have access to the Pat Hartley Complex. "The team would

have a locker room facility and could share the field with football and men's soccer. We would just need to work out field maintenance," he said. But there are only two schools in our conference that play women's soccer — Lon Morris and Navarro."

The good news, Drain said, is that women's soccer is an up-and-coming sport. "If we started a program, we would see others start up all over. Our soccer would have a domino effect."

To launch any brand-new sports program requires planning and budget, Drain said. "Recruiting is a big factor," he said. "We would need to hire a coach in



Abby Kay Lasater of Cleburne was one of Coach Terry's first recruits to TJC ladies' golf in 2001.

advance and allow a semester or two for the coach to hit the recruiting trail and get the word out that we have a new program. Start-up is not just a month or two ... we need a year. But it is a great opportunity."

Promise 3: Leadership continued

massive mall holds more than 520 stores, 86 restaurants and food stores, an amusement park with roller-coaster, aquarium, museum, speedway and more.

"It was really cool," Becky said. "It was much more than I even thought it would be. It was like WOW! Big shocker. I want to say, 'thank you.' It was my ultimate wish and they made it come true."

Students from the leadership class, with the help of TJC Art Club members and others, raised \$3,242 to grant Becky's wish. The dozen members of the class held a carwash and cash cans campaign around campus. They garnered support from individuals and groups like the Student Senate and the Art Club, which donated \$1,500 from its art auction. The group even got help from Bullard High School Key Club students who raised \$400 by hosting a dodge ball tournament.

TJC student Katrina Williams said, "We were busy, but it was worth the effort. We all love kids, and it was so nice to help her.

I really felt good about myself for helping out like that."

McClendon agreed, "We were glad to be able to give her the wish. She was a bright young lady, very intelligent, with so many ideas and hopes for her life. She came to our class so we could meet her, and it made us want to do (the project) so much more. This was an opportunity she probably never would have been able to have otherwise."

Williams and McClendon both said that through the project, they learned a lot about community service and working together. The students say they found it easier to express themselves and take the lead in dealing with businesses and other people because they really wanted to make Becky's wish come true. They also realized the value of teamwork.

"We were glad to be able to give her the wish."

McClendon said, "(This project) helped me realize that there are a bunch of people in the world willing to help people when they need it. I don't see any reason why anybody or any group couldn't make anything possible. It just makes you want to go out and do things like this even more."

As for Becky, she returned to school this fall with memories of fun, adventure and, of course, lots and lots of shopping, thanks to TJC students who learned valuable lessons in commitment and caring through community service. She certainly has a great story to tell about her summer experience.

Blaine said, "I am always unbelievably proud of all my students. Their impact goes way beyond the campus here at TJC."

This semester, students in Blaine's leadership class are adopting another Make-A-Wish child and have expressed a desire to see the effort repeated every semester.

PROMISE

3

Community service.

We believe that strengthening the communities of East Texas through volunteerism and service is not just a goal; it's a way of life. TJC students of all ages are answering this call and lending a hand in our local communities.

TJC is changing lives with community service, and making East Texas a better place to live.



TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



www.tjc.edu

CHANGING LIVES

Save the dates for these ALUMNI EVENTS

OCTOBER 26

Homecoming 2006:

Classic Car Rally and Mixer

Jake & Mary Roosth Automotive

Technology Center, inside the

Skills Training Center

TJC West Campus - 6 p.m.

OCTOBER 27

Homecoming 2006:

Campus Pep Rally

Jenkins Hall Lawn - Noon

OCTOBER 27

Homecoming 2006:

Alumni Awards Reception

Rogers Student Center - 5:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 27

Homecoming 2006:

Alumni Awards Dinner and Dance

Rogers Student Center - 6 p.m.

OCTOBER 27

Homecoming 2006:

Harmony & Understanding Reunion

Rogers Student Center, 8:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 28

Homecoming 2006:

Reunions and Tailgate Party

Rose Stadium Parking Lot - Noon

OCTOBER 28

Homecoming Game 2006:

TJC Apaches vs Northeastern Oklahoma A&M

Rose Stadium - 2 p.m.



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